

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th November 1890.

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		Taking of <i>begar</i> from tea-gardens ...	ib.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	" Ahammadí "	...	...	Tangail, Mymensingh
2	" Hitakari "	...	...	Kushtea
3	" Kasipore Nibási "	...	...	Kasipore, Burrisal
4	" Navamihir "	...	...	Ghatail, Mymensingh
5	" Sahayogi "	...	...	Burrisal
6	" Uluberia Darpan "	...	...	Uluberia
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	" Arya Darpan "	...	...	Calcutta
8	" Bangavási "	...	...	Ditto
9	" Banganibási "	...	...	Ditto
10	" Burdwán Sanjívaní "	...	...	Burdwan
11	" Chárvártá "	...	...	Sherepore, Mymensingh
12	" Dacca Prakásh "	...	...	Dacca
13	" Education Gazette "	...	...	Hooghly
14	" Gramvási "	...	...	Ramkristopore, Howrah
15	" Hindu Ranjiká "	...	...	Beauleah, Rajshahye
16	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	...	...	Berhampore
17	" Navayuga "	...	...	Calcutta
18	" Pratikár "	...	...	Berhampore
19	" Rungpore Dikprakásh "	...	...	Kakinia, Rungpore
20	" Sahachar "	...	...	Calcutta
21	" Sakti "	...	...	Dacca
22	" Samáj-o-Sáhitya "	...	...	Garibpore, Nuddea
23	" Samaya "	...	...	Calcutta
24	" Sanjívaní "	...	...	Ditto
25	" Sansodhíní "	...	...	Chittagong
26	" Saráswat Patra "	...	...	Dacca
27	" Som Prakásh "	...	...	Calcutta
28	" Sudhákár "	...	...	Ditto
29	" Sulabh Samvád "	...	...	Ditto
30	" Surabhi-o-Patáká "	...	...	Chandernagore
<i>Daily.</i>				
31	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	...	...	Calcutta
32	" Bengal Exchange Gazette "	...	...	Ditto
33	" Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká "	...	...	Ditto
34	" Samvád Prabhákár "	...	...	Ditto
35	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	...	...	Ditto
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	" Dacca Gazette "	...	...	Dacca
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
37	" Darjeeling Mission ke Másk Samáchár Patrika."	...	...	Darjeeling
38	" Kshatriya Patriká "	...	...	Patna
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	" Aryávarta "	...	...	Calcutta
40	" Behar Bandhu "	...	...	Bankipore
41	" Bhárat Mitra "	...	...	Calcutta
42	" Champarun Chandrika "	...	...	Bettiah
43	" Desí Vyápári "	...	...	Calcutta
44	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	...	...	Ditto
45	" Uchit Baktá "	...	...	Ditto
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	" Jáum-Jahánomah "	...	...	Calcutta
				250
				14th November 1890.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	" Aftal Alum Arrah "	Arrah	300	
48	" Al Punch "	Bankipore	.....	17th November 1890.
49	" Anis "	Patna	.....	20th ditto.
50	" Gauhur "	Calcutta	196	16th ditto.
51	" Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad "	Murshidabad	.....	21st ditto.
52	" Urdu Guide and Darussaltanat "	Calcutta	340	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
53	" Asha "	Cuttack	.....
54	" Pradip "	Ditto	.....
55	" Samyabadi "	Ditto	.....
56	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
57	" Dipaka "	Cuttack	.....
58	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	205	6th ditto.
59	" Urya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	600	15th October and 5th November 1890.
60	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	444	18th October and 8th November 1890.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
61	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	450	17th November 1890.
62	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	17th ditto.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Sudhákar, of the 14th November, says that the Indian police, and especially the police of Bengal, are more the destroyers of the public peace than its preservers.

The Bengal Police.

Their cruel oppression of innocent people has caused them to be looked upon more as beasts of prey than as human beings, while their inefficiency in coping with robbers and thieves is such that the people have come to doubt whether it is really British rule under which they are living at the present time. The corruption, too, of the police knows no bounds. The whole police service is corrupt to the backbone. But oppression and taking of bribes is the special province of the underlings of the police. In the village the police constable is looked upon with greater awe than the District Magistrate himself, for the former possesses unlimited powers of oppression, and frequently exercises them over the poor ignorant people.

SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 14th, 1890.

The conduct of the police towards the village panchayets is most reprehensible. A police officer, however low in rank he may be, generally looks upon the chowkidars and the panchayets as his menials, and actually sets them to do menial work for him.

In conclusion, the writer adds that at present the police officers are generally men without character, given to immorality and hard drinking. On coming to a village on an investigation, the first object that a police officer sets before himself is to enjoy himself by indulging in drink.

2. The *Banganivási*, of the 21st November, says that though the police

The Calcutta Police and the surreptitious sale of liquor during unauthorised hours. are well aware that the keepers of grog-shops in Calcutta habitually sell liquor after the authorised hours, still they do not bring them to justice. It would seem that the whole police force of the town, from top to bottom, is bribed by these keepers of grog-shops, or they would not have thus escaped detection and punishment. Is it also the intention of the authorities themselves to connive at the corruption of their subordinates, and encourage the sale of liquor during prohibited hours?

BANGANIVASI
Nov. 21st, 1890.

3. The *Bangavási*, of the 22nd November, has learnt that several thefts have of late been committed in Ramnagar, within the jurisdiction of the Moureswar thana in the Beerbhoom district, and that the police have in every case failed to trace the culprits.

The authorities and the *badmashes* of Kalikatchha in Tipperah. The same paper has the following :—The police inspector of Brahmanberiah having submitted a report on the conduct of the *badmashes* who had been molesting the people of Kalikatchha in the Tipperah district for some time past, the authorities directed the Sub-divisional Officer of Brahmanberiah to hold a personal enquiry into the matter. The Sub-divisional Officer, however, delegated the duty to the Honorary Magistrate of Kalikatchha, Baboo Kali Nath, who was quite unwilling to undertake the unpleasant task, inasmuch as he feared that the investigation he was required to make would bring upon him the displeasure of many of his neighbours and relatives who might be implicated in the matter. He is therefore doing his best to defer taking any steps to as late a date as possible. In the meanwhile, the *badmashes*, emboldened by the indifference of the authorities, attempted to commit outrage on the wife of one Sitanath De, a resident of Choudhuri-para, on the night of the 22nd October last. It is idle to expect that the chowkidars, who are anxious only for their own safety, will protect the people from oppression by such *badmashes*.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

BANGAVASI.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHAMPARUN
CHANDRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

5. The *Champarun Chandriká*, of the 16th November, says that the Hindi character used in the question addressed by Government to the judicial officers in Behar as to the language now prevalent in the courts in that province is quite irrelevant. The question ought to have been, not what language, but what character, is used in the courts in Behar.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

6. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 16th November, says that as the work of the Munsif's court at Uluberia has greatly increased of late, an additional Munsif should be sent to that place. As there are three Munsifs at Howrah, the civil jurisdiction over the Jagatballavpore thana should be transferred from Ampta to Howrah, and the Munsif's court at the former place transferred to Uluberia. At present the criminal cases arising within the Jagatballavpore thana are tried by the Howrah Criminal Courts, and so the transfer of the civil jurisdiction over that thana to Howrah will greatly benefit suitors in that thana. This arrangement will also lighten the work of the Munsifs' courts at Uluberia and Ampta, and lead to a more satisfactory system of disposing of cases.

SAHACHAR,
Nov. 19th, 1890.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 19th November, thus criticises the judgment of the High Court in the Lohardugga shooting case:—

The Lohardugga shooting case in the High Court.

It is difficult to see why the High Court has upheld the sentence which was passed by the lower court on the zemindar's men who acted in pure self-defence. Has the part of the Penal Code which treats of the right of self-defence no meaning then?

The Judges of the High Court have passed a lenient sentence on Father Cus, on the ground that the reverend gentleman was ignorant of the laws and the condition of the country. But why should leniency, based on the ignorance of the law, which is not shown to an ignorant hillman, be shown to a European Missionary? Perhaps their lordships compared the offending missionary with Pizzaro and Cortes and showed mercy to him. The decision of the High Court in this case has not given satisfaction to the lawyers and the general public.

The Rev. Father Cus has fled to his native country, and the question is, will any attempt be made to bring this bigoted ruffian back to this country in order that he might undergo the sentence which has been passed upon him? The silence of the Government of India in this matter will be misconstrued by the people of India. The Joint-Magistrate, Mr. O'Brien, may consider a Belgian his friend and the people of India strangers, but no Belgian will nevertheless lay down his life in a war with Russia. Government should not permit foreign missionaries of Mr. Cus's stamp to come out to this country and preach Christianity to its people.

BEHAR BANDHU,
Nov. 25th, 1890.

Proposed abolition of Hindi as the court language in Behar.

8. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 25th November, says that the proposed abolition of Hindi as the court language in Behar would cause great inconvenience to the people of that province.

(d)—Education.

SAKTI,
Nov. 18th, 1890.

The proposed Training College in Bengal.

9. The *Sakti*, of the 18th November, says that every credit is due to Sir Steuart Bayley for his proposal to establish a Training College in Bengal for the instruction of those who wish to follow the profession of a teacher. But will not His Honour do better, before his final departure from the country, to improve the condition of the existing normal schools than establish a fresh college for the training up of teachers? The men who come out of the normal schools now-a-days are generally found to

possess a very imperfect knowledge of either Bengali or Sanskrit, their sole acquirement being a few rules of grammar. And these men are employed as teachers in all the vernacular schools throughout the mosussil. Sir Steuart Bayley's first object, therefore, in this direction ought to be to so remodel the normal schools as may enable them to turn out men competent to teach up to the lower classes of English schools.

10. The *Sanjivani*, of the 22nd November, has learnt that Sir Alfred

Rumoured retirement of Sir Alfred Croft and his probable successor.

Croft will shortly retire from the public service because he fears that his influence will greatly diminish under Sir Charles Elliott. It is also

said that a Civilian will be appointed to succeed Sir Alfred Croft, a certain Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal being spoken of as the most likely person. Considering that even under Sir Alfred Croft, who was a member of the Education Service itself, the Education Department was administered on political principles, it is almost certain that under a Civilian Director the department will be administered on those principles and those principles only.

11. The *Bangavasi*, of the 22nd November, makes the following extract

The text-book of geography for the Entrance Examination.

from the Manual of Geography appointed for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and says that this one extract

should prove to the University authorities the necessity of omitting this book from their list of text-books.

"The water of the Ganges is no more sacred than that of any other river. Caste is a great evil in India, preventing progress in civilization, rendering men unfeeling, and giving rise to many quarrels. The caste-leaders are the most ignorant and bigoted portion of the community. Caste prevailed among several half-civilized nations in ancient times, but perceiving its absurdities and bad effects, it was relinquished."

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

12. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 16th November, says that the Uluberia Local Board has done nothing worth

The Uluberia Local Board and the Howrah District Board.

naming this year. The Board has held some meetings and passed some resolutions, and done nothing more. Of course, it can do nothing without the orders of the District Board. But if Government has no confidence in the Local Board, and cannot even entrust its members with the work of constructing ordinary village roads, it should abolish the Board altogether. The Howrah District Board sanctioned the construction of a road from Uluberia to Syampur two years ago, and the work of constructing the road has not been yet taken in hand. The members of the Board are requested to commence the construction of the road without delay.

13. The *Ahmadi*, of the 16th November, complains that the Commiss-

The Tangail Municipality in the Mymensingh district.

sioners of the Tangail Municipality, in the district of Mymensingh, do not attend to works of public utility. The municipality, whilst

sadly neglecting the roads (1) from Tangail *via* Pathrail and Deldwar to Bathuli, and (2) from Tangail to Nasirabad, has not yet hesitated to grant Rs. 40,000 for the construction of a road from Tangail *via* Mirzapore to Dacca, though the proposed road is not likely to prove of any immediate use to the people of Tangail. In conclusion, the writer would beg of the Municipal authorities to put some earth on the two *chaks* to the west of Seral Gopalpore.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

ULUBERIA DARPAR,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

AHMADI,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

NAVAYAVA,
Nov. 20th, 1890.

14. The *Navayaya*, of the 20th November, blames Mr. Luson, Magistrate of Murshidabad, for having instituted a criminal action against the head clerk of the municipality of that place on account of his having taken commission from certain Calcutta companies on goods supplied by them to the municipality, and makes the following observations :—

1. Mr. Luson is not the Chairman of the municipality, and so under the Local Self-Government Act he cannot prosecute the head clerk. It is the Chairman of the Municipality who can prosecute him.

2. The Commissioners of the municipality pardoned the head clerk, and so by prosecuting him Mr. Luson has insulted both the Commissioners and the public.

3. As the Chairman passed the bills for goods supplied after a careful examination and received full receipts for the amounts paid from each company, it is clear that the municipality has suffered no loss from the action of the head clerk.

4. The head clerk is not a public servant, and if he is taken to be one then the companies which gave him commission ought also to be prosecuted.

5. Though the Chairman was not satisfied with the head clerk's explanation, the Commissioners were, and so the head clerk ought not to have been prosecuted.

GRAMVASI,
Nov. 24th, 1890.

15. The *Grámvási*, of the 24th November, has the following on the working of the Howrah District Board :—

The Howrah District Board.

The Magistrate of Howrah, who is the Chairman of the District Board, is, unlike his predecessors, a good man, but he cannot devote much time to the affairs of the Board. The Vice-Chairman is a leading Pleader, and he, too, cannot devote much time to the duties of his office. Thus it is the head clerk of the Board's office who practically manages everything, and there is no one to look after his work. He does just as he likes. Letters addressed to the Board often remain unanswered for months. The work of repairing the roads in the district having cost more money than was sanctioned by the Board for the purpose, application was repeatedly made to the Local Board, and afterwards to the District Board, for the excess expenditure, but in vain. If the cost of repairing the roads is paid in this dilatory manner, no one will in future undertake the work of repair. The Deputy Inspector of Schools wrote a letter six months ago asking the Board to pay Rs. 10 towards the construction of a room for the accommodation of the Makn school, and nobody in the office of the Board can now say what has become of the letter. Similar instances may be easily multiplied. This state of things will continue so long as the Vice-Chairman does not consent to devote a portion of his time to the affairs of the Board.

The Board has acted very properly by creating an inspectorship of ferries and pounds. The Magistrate is now requested to invite candidates by means of public advertisements in the newspapers, and to make his selection from among them, instead of appointing either his own man or his head clerk's man to the post.

The Benares road stands in need of repair. Its repairs should be commenced this year and completed in the course of the next. The Board should now direct its attention to the repairs of village roads under the jurisdiction of the Local Board.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

GRAMVASI,
Nov. 24th, 1890.

A sluice gate in the embankment of the Rupnarayan in the district of Howrah.

16. The *Grámvási*, of the 24th November, says that the ryots of Bisakul-Gobrakhali, a village within the jurisdiction of the Bagnan thana in the Howrah district, are in the habit of taking water for

cultivation purposes by cutting the embankment of the Rupnarayan near this village, and afterwards repairing the breach at their own cost. In some years, when the breach becomes wide, its repairs cost a large sum, and the ryots are put to much inconvenience. They now propose to construct, once for all, a sluice gate near this village, and are ready to pay one-half of the cost of construction. The authorities should therefore sanction this proposal.

(h)—General.

17. The *Sakti*, of the 18th November, says that Sir Steuart Bayley is undoubtedly a good ruler, but it must be admitted that he has not been so popular as

Sir Steuart Bayley. Lord Reay and Lord Connemara. And the reason of this is not far to seek, for the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is at best a civilian, and cannot rise completely above the influences of his class; whilst the Governors of Bombay and Madras are men brought out from England, and are therefore free from official prejudices. It is a matter of wonder that the authorities should have no hesitation in placing a civilian at the head of the administration of Bengal, the most important province of the empire.

18. The *Banganivási*, of the 21st November, says that the order for the

The transfer of the office of the Military Accountant-General to Rawalpindi. transfer of the office of the Military Accountant-General from Calcutta to Rawalpindi has caused great anxiety to the clerks in that

office. Their petition to the Comptroller of Military Accounts for increased pay having been rejected, they are unable to take their families with them to Rawalpindi, and they do not know under whose care they can leave them here. The Government that can every year spend large sums on the luxury of the hill exodus would not certainly have imperilled its own solvency by granting a few rupees of increased pay to some of its poor clerks.

19. The *Sanjivani*, of the 22nd November, has the following:—

Mr. Cotton as the probable successor of Sir John Edgar. It is said that Sir John Edgar will leave the country for good with Sir Steuart Bayley.

Sir John is an excellent officer, and the whole province is sorry at the prospect of his retirement. Mr. Cotton is spoken of as likely to succeed him as the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal. People have come to entertain grave doubts about the sincerity of Mr. Cotton's professed sympathy for them. Mr. Cotton's practice, since his installation in the Bengal Secretariat, has not been quite in keeping with his former professions. A Secretary to the Bengal Government, as he is, he is bound in duty to look after the interests of the people of Bengal; but it is said that as an office master he gives undue preference to his Eurasian subordinates. In his hill exodus he likes to take only Eurasian clerks with him to Darjeeling, and has assigned the house in Darjeeling hitherto used by the native clerks for the exclusive use of the Eurasian clerks, thus putting the native clerks taken to the hills to great inconvenience. There is a Parsi clerk in the Bengal Secretariat, and Mr. Cotton, it is reported, is in the habit of saying that he would have liked it very much if all his clerks were Parsis. The writer is compelled to publish these things, as he considers that Mr. Cotton is now showing himself in his true colours. A man with such dislike for the Bengalis should on no account be appointed to the Chief Secretaryship of the Government of Bengal. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal should be a man in sympathy with the Bengalis, and Sir Charles Elliott is greatly mistaken if he has selected Mr. Cotton for his Chief Secretary under the notion that Mr. Cotton has a place in his heart for the Bengalis. The popularity of a ruler depends much upon his Chief Secretary, and Sir Charles will certainly be disappointed if he makes Mr. Cotton his chief adviser.

SAKTI,
Nov. 18th, 1890.

BANGANIVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1890.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

20. The same paper has the following on the General Administration Report of the Dacca Division for 1889-90 :—

The General Administration Report,
Dacca Division, 1889-90.

The Commissioner of the Dacca Division

has said in his report that on the 31st March last the number of boys in the Braja Mohan Institution and in the Raj Chandra College of Burrisal were twenty-one and twelve respectively. But the report of the Director of Public Instruction for the same year gives the numbers at 61 and 27 respectively. This discrepancy between the Commissioner's report and the Director's report proves that the former report is not at all reliable.

Regarding the zemindars of Mymensingh, the Commissioner has remarked that there was an absence of any special or noteworthy act of beneficence on their part. But did not Babu Jogendra Kishore Roy Choudhuri of Rangopalpore offer during the year under report to make over to Government a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the establishment of a technical school in Mymensingh, and also to pay Rs. 2,000 to Government for its maintenance? That the school has not yet been established is the fault of Government. Again, it was during the same year that Srimati Bindubasini Choudhurani of Tangail took over charge of the Tangail Entrance School, and has since spent about Rs. 300 per month for its maintenance. Are not these acts of beneficence? Once more : did not Srimati Jahnabi Choudhurani in the course of the year 1889-90 found a charitable dispensary, and has she not borne also all its expenses since its establishment? The Magistrate of the district is well aware of these acts of public munificence, though the Commissioner has betrayed an ignorance of them. To conclude, Raja Suryakanta, Srimati Jahnabi Choudhurani, Srimati Bindubasini Choudhurani, Hafez Mahomed Ali Khan, and Babu Jogendra Kishore Roy Choudhuri have all contributed various sums to the funds of the City College in Calcutta, of which the Lieutenant-Governor himself is one of the patrons.

The Commissioner has, however, praised the zemindars of Mymensingh as being "liberal, peaceful, and law-abiding landlords." It is strange that the Commissioner of the Dacca Division has found peace reigning in Mymensingh, where thousands of people are always found gathered for the purpose of spilling one another's blood. The Commissioner's report is evidently based on those submitted by the District Magistrates, and the latter must lose all respect with the public if they can submit such false reports.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

21. The *Bangavasi*, of the 22nd November, says that the order of the Bengal Government to count the number of

The Census.

plough cattle and of ploughs, and to ascertain

the extent of cultivation and the implements of husbandry possessed by each peasant, during the coming census, is likely to throw fresh difficulties in the way of the census officers. The counting of heads alone is regarded by the ignorant peasantry of this country with great misgivings, as they think there is some connection between that process and the imposition of taxes. The counting of their plough cattle, &c., will be a fresh source of anxiety to them, and will most probably induce them to conceal as much of their property as they can from the census officers. Government should do nothing which might lead its subjects to practise deception. The new order should therefore be rescinded.

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 24th, 1890.

Appointment of native Deputy Ma-
gistrates to District Magistracies.

22. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 24th November, has

learned that the Lieutenant-Governor con-
templates promoting some native members of

the Subordinate Executive Service to District
Magistracies, and suggests in this connection the names of Babu Bankim
Chandra Chatterji and Babu Durgagati Banerji.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

23. The *Sakti*, of the 18th November, approves of the appointment of

The two new appointments to the Supreme Legislative Council.

Sir Romesh Chandra Mitra and Nawab Ashanullah Khan Bahadur to memberships of the Supreme Legislative Council.

In conferring the honour on the Khan Bahadur, a man of education and noble birth as he is, Government has done honour to the whole population of Eastern Bengal, as well as to the Council itself. As for the other appointment, there can be no doubt that Sir Romesh Chandra Mitra will show the same ability in the Council Chamber as he did on the High Court Bench.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 23rd November, thus

Mr. Bradlaugh's new Indian Councils Bill.

criticises Mr. Bradlaugh's new Bill for the reform of the Indian Legislative Councils :—

The new Bill proposes to give the elective franchise to 2 per cent. of the Indian population. But even this limited scheme of election will, if carried out, increase the power of Babus, and thereby prove prejudicial to the interests of the people in general. The Babus have not got the elective franchise at the present moment, and yet they are clamouring for the raising of the age of consent and the alteration of the marriage laws of the Hindus. And the amount of mischief which will result when the franchise is conceded to them may be easily guessed. The Bill professes to provide for the representation of all classes. But the number of Congressist Babus being large, they will have a majority in the Councils. And as they have very little in common with the generality of their countrymen, the laws made with their approval will not meet with the approval of the country. While the officials of Government will be, as they are now, busy with politics, these Babu representatives will meddle with society and religion, and thereby bring about a revolution in the country. Government should know once for all that the country does not want the elective franchise. Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill has met with the approval of the English branch of the Congress Committee, and will probably be approved by the Congress itself. But as the Congress does not represent the country, the approval of the Congress is not the approval of the country. Representation in no shape is suitable for India.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

25. The *Ahmadi*, of the 16th November, says that the excessive

Distressed condition of the people of the Rajshahye district.

rainfall of the present year having done incalculable injury to the rice crops, the peasants do not know how to keep their body and soul

together, much less how to meet the demands of the zemindar. The fall in the price of jute has also become a fresh source of anxiety to them, as well as to the tradespeople. Rice is already selling at a very high price. But in spite of such distress traders are sending away rice to other parts of the country. It is time that the authorities should put a stop to the export business of the district. Cattle having been lost in large numbers during the late floods, milk is selling at exorbitantly high prices. As for the horses, the few that have survived are in a very bad condition.

Cholera has made its appearance in Tangail, Manickgunge, and Jamalpore sub-divisions, and is carrying off large numbers of men. The number of medical men in the district is very small.

26. A correspondent of the *Banganivási*, of the 21st November,

Failure of crops and consequent distress in some villages in the Nuddea district.

says that owing to the failure of the *rabi* crop last year, and of the *aus* and *aman* crops in the present, the people of the villages within the

SAKTI,
Nov. 18th, 1890.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Nov. 23rd, 1890.

AHMADI,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

BANGANIVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1890.

jurisdiction of the Bhadalia thana in the Kushtea sub-division of the Nuddea district are in great distress. Having failed to get loans from the mahajans, they were delighted at the news that Government would make *tuccavi* grants at a small rate of interest. But they were sorely disappointed when, after coming all the way to Kushtea, they found that all the relief Government meant to give them was only a quarter of a seer of rice for each man and even that for only a few days. These poor people will now die by hundreds unless Government sends them adequate relief.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AHMADI,
Nov. 16th, 1890.

The Mahomedan community and the proposed raising of the age of consent.

Mahomedans will not bear any interference by Government with their social customs, which are inseparably connected with their religion. Any such interference would lead to a violent outburst of feeling in the Mahomedan community.

SAHACHAR,
Nov. 19th, 1890.

Europeans in Central Africa.

27. The *Ahmadi*, of the 16th November, says that if Government thinks it desirable to raise the age of consent, any legislation that it makes on the subject should be made applicable to the Hindus only.

28. The *Sahachar*, of the 19th November, thus refers to the doings of Europeans in Central Africa:—

Though European historians are in the habit of dwelling on the cruelty and bigotry of the Mussulmans, and accusing them of having preached their religion sword in hand, still their own people do not seem to be much better in these respects. Nay, they are even worse than the Mussulmans whom they are in the habit of abusing. Look at the treatment of the Jews in Europe, and say whether they have been, in the past, worse treated in Asia. What is the condition of that people even now in Russia and Germany? Is not there at the present day a larger amount of religious toleration in Turkey than in Russia? Speaking generally, Asiatics are morally far superior to Europeans who are by nature cruel, selfish, and of an angry disposition. These traits in their character were conspicuous in their dealings with the aborigines of America, and the history of Mexico and Peru contains abundant evidence of their religious bigotry. And what was enacted by them in America 350 years ago is being repeated in Africa in these concluding years of the 19th century. Christian Missionaries have gone there as pioneers, sword and rifle in hand. And Alphonso Cus only imitated the example of these Missionaries when he came out to Bengal, rifle in hand, for the purpose of establishing there Jesus' "kingdom of love." But unfortunately for him the rulers of the country are not men of the type of Pizzaro and Cortes, and he has had to fly the country in fear. But the Missionaries in Africa have no such fear, and are treating the natives as a conquered people. The burning and looting of villages by Germans, and the alleged cruelties of Major Barttelot and Mr. Jamieson, are then alluded to and condemned. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Stanley, civilisation will now spread in Africa, and roads, railways, steam-ships will now be made in that continent. But whether all this will bring about any amelioration of the condition of the natives, it will be for history to record. In the meantime it is useless denying that the people of Africa are being grossly oppressed by the Europeans, who are partitioning their country among themselves under the plea of opening it to Western civilization, and bringing it within the pale of the Christian church.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 20th, 1890.

Difference between Ireland and India as British dependencies.

29. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 20th November, says that, although Ireland stands in the same relation to England as India does, still the Irish people have been able to wrest from the British public privileges

which the Indians have not yet been able to secure. And this difference between the two similarly situated countries is due to the fact that Ireland is inhabited by one nation, whilst India's population consists of a heterogeneous mass, consisting of various peoples having no sympathy with each other. If these various Indian nations could unite with each other to form one compact people, the rulers of India would think twice before saying that they are bestowing upon the people of India favours which they do not deserve.

30. The *Banganivási*, of the 21st November, says that the Czarewitch's visit to India is viewed with anxiety in some quarters. It is feared lest the material prosperity of India, the grandeur surrounding the

The Czarewitch's intended visit to this country.

courts of the Native Chiefs, and, above all, the staunch loyalty of the Indians to the British Government should, when communicated to the Czar by his son, arouse his jealousy and make him long for the possession of this empire more eagerly than he ever did before. Though the people of India have many grievances under English rule, still they do not for a moment like to see the English driven out of this country by some other foreign power. In spite of the disadvantages they labour under under British rule, the people know it well enough that it will be impossible for them to enjoy under any other Government the peace and happiness which they enjoy under it.

At all events a proper welcome should be accorded to the Czarewitch, and the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India should be in constant attendance upon him during the whole period of his stay in this country.

31. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 21st November, says that

Lord Lansdowne's administration, and the scheme of promoting native officers to high offices of State.

the hopes of the natives to be promoted to high offices of State have little chance of being realised; for it seems that the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association has succeeded in winning over Lord Lansdowne to its cause. This fact accounts for the unjust administrative arrangement just made at Serampore, where an experienced native Deputy Magistrate of some years' standing has been placed under a junior European Deputy Magistrate. If Lord Lansdowne continues the line of policy that he has hitherto followed, the native officers of Government will soon be deprived of their honours and situations, and even of their lawful rights. His Excellency's administration will long be remembered as one which made itself responsible for a stringent cattle-trespass law, the indigo affair in Jessore, an invidious distinction between Europeans and natives, and the consolidation of the Income-tax Act. The Government may well say to the people frankly that it will not give them any high offices, and the latter will cease to urge their claims thereto; but instead of doing that, the authorities will always tantalise the people by holding out false hopes to them. The people are being daily subjected to greater injustice and oppression, and find no remedy. And the British Parliament itself turns a deaf ear to their complaints.

32. Referring to the proposal to make the registration of Mahomedan marriages compulsory, the *Urdu Guide and Darussaltanat*, of the 21st November, says

The proposed registration of Mahomedan marriages.

that, before Government takes this step, it should first recognise the customs of *talaq*, *khola*, &c., by legislation. The evil custom which the registration system is intended to check is at present confined only to the lower classes of Mahomedans, and is hardly met with in the upper ranks of that community.

33. The *Bangavási*, of the 22nd November, has the following:—

English trade *versus* Indian manu-factories.

The people of India can never hope to enjoy a more perfect peace than what they now enjoy under British rule; still they cannot

BANGANIVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1890.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Nov. 21st, 1890.

URDU GUIDE &
DARUSSALTANAT,
Nov. 21st, 1890.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890.

be said to be happy under that rule. Had the English come to this country simply for the purpose of ruling a vast empire, their Indian subjects would have probably had nothing to complain of. But they came to India as traders, and though they have now become its masters, they have yet kept up their trading business. Nevertheless, the people of this country would have nothing to fear from English trade if it had been conducted on fair principles. But that trade, meaning as it does, an unequal warfare between English and Indian manufacturers, and the Indians being the weaker party, the latter are naturally getting worsted in the struggle. The English merchants, for instance, are able to carry away from the country as much of its natural produce as they can, though the people may want it for their very subsistence, and to force upon the Indians as much of English manufactures as it is possible for them to do. There can of course be no objection to the exportation from the country of its surplus produce, and the importation into it of those foreign articles which the Indians are unable to manufacture, but which they cannot do without. But the English will not trade on this fair principle; and the artifices employed by them to increase the sale of English-made cloths have thus completely ruined one class of native artisans, namely, the weavers.

It is a mistake to think that the Indians cannot at present do without foreign goods. All the important Indian manufactures yet exist, though in a moribund condition, and it is only earnest and energetic efforts that can now resuscitate them. But it is idle to look up to Government for help in this work of regeneration. What has to be done must be done by the people themselves of their own accord and on their own account.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 22nd, 1890

34. The *Sanjivani*, of the 22nd November, says that Sir Steuart Bayley proposes to feast not only his European friends, but his native friends and admirers also, on the occasion of his daughter's marriage, which takes place in the first week of December next. His Honour has always treated the natives with kindness and affection, and his intention of inviting his native friends to join in the rejoicings to be held on the above occasion is a fresh proof of his strong affection for them.

SANJIVANI.

Rajendra Nath Datta, the political *Sannyasi*.

35. The same paper is sorry to have published the letter of a political *Sannyasi* in one of its recent issues (see Report on Native Papers for November 15th and 22nd, 1890, paragraphs 25 and 33), because the *Sannyasi* is no other than the notorious agitator, Rajendra Nath Datta of Rayana, in the Burdwan district. The writer has known the man too long and too well to be deceived by his letters in the newspapers giving accounts of his alleged high deeds. The man has played various tricks in different parts of Bengal of late years. He is a very shrewd man, and has been to different parts of India in the guise of a Hindu religious preacher, or of a political *Sannyasi*. He has also visited Central India. But no one should place any reliance on the accounts he has himself sent to the newspapers from the different parts of the country of his own high achievements. The fellow should be prevented from associating his name with the National Congress, as he has really no connection whatever with that movement.

DACCA GAZETTE
Nov. 24th, 1890.

The "Kartik Baruni Mela" in Munshigunge in the Dacca district.

36. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 24th November, says that the famous "Kartik Baruni Mela" which is held every year on the bank of the Dhaleshwari near Munshigunge, will commence from the 11th of Agra-hayan and will last till about the end of the month of Pous. Formerly a large number of traders used to resort to that place on the occasion, but the duration of the fair having been shortened by the orders of Government there has been a falling off in their number, and so the *mela* has lost its

former importance. The writer hopes that the authorities will reconsider the matter and extend the duration of the mela to full two months.

37. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandriká*, of the 24th November, says that English rule is responsible for the present English rule and its effects.

deplorable condition of India, for the extinction of its arts and manufactures, and for the poverty of its inhabitants. English education came into the country in the wake of English rule; and with the spread of that education the wants of the people began to multiply. Directly, however, these wants, most of which are of an artificial nature, began to manifest themselves, Englishmen, who are a shrewd mercantile people, supplied them with goods imported from England. Foolish Indians are struck by the external glitter of these English goods, and, forgetting that they are but flimsy and unsubstantial, prefer them to those manufactured in their own country. Through this neglect the indigenous arts and manufactures of the country have disappeared one after another, and the people are now dependent on foreigners for the supply even of their daily necessities. The destruction of these arts and manufactures has naturally impoverished the people. But poverty has not apparently altered their habits of luxury and craving for English goods, which have been engendered by English education. Even families which can hardly make the two ends meet, must have soap, lavender, English books, stockings, handkerchiefs, and such like things. Through the influence of the zenana mission this taste for luxury has invaded even the zenana, and through the exertion of the ladies of the mission the Hindu girls and Hindu ladies are being educated out of their religion and manners and customs, which have hitherto contributed to so large an extent to the domestic felicity of the Hindu home. At such a critical time as this efforts should be made to improve native arts and manufactures, to establish factories over the country, and to take such other steps as will check the growth of poverty in the country, and bring food to its starving millions. The congressists are wasting their energy in empty talk. The writer has carefully watched the congress movement, and is of opinion that more harm than good will result from it.

38. A correspondent of the same paper says that the effects of the curtailment of the Durga Puja holidays at the instance of Pundit Mahesachundra Nyayaratana

The Durga Puja holidays and the Calcutta Chief Commissariat Office.

have already begun to manifest themselves.

The Calcutta Chief Commissariat office was closed only for four days for the celebration of the Durga Puja, and no leave was granted even for the Lakshmi Puja. It was also kept open during the celebration of the *Kali* and *Jagádhatri* *Pujas*. A Brahmin clerk of the office having repeatedly asked for leave, in order to be present at the puja which was being celebrated in his house, was threatened with a fine of five rupees by the European head of the office. Is there no remedy against this lawless conduct of the Europeans? Lord Lansdowne, adds the editor, promised redress in cases of the above nature, but there is no likelihood of this promise being given effect to in practice.

39. The *Grámvási*, of the 24th November, refers to the rumoured retirement of Sir John Edgar, Chief Secretary

Sir John Edgar.

to the Bengal Government, at the same time

with Sir Steuart Bayley, and says it would be better if Sir John were to remain in the country for a short period to help the new administration. Sir John is a large-hearted, liberal and dutiful officer, and the public are unwilling to part with him. If, however, Sir John Edgar's resignation cannot be postponed, people ought to show him the same mark of respect as they will show to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor, who was indebted for the good acts of his administration to the help and advice of his able Chief Secretary.

**DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,**
Nov. 4th, 1890.

**DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.**

GRAMVASI,
Nov. 24th, 1890.

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 24th, 1890.

40. A correspondent of the *Som Prakásh*, of the 24th November, says that fever in an epidemic form has broken out at Beledanga, Harinadi, Chandkundi, Haripur, Ragunathpur, Baganchra, Goyesapur and other villages within the jurisdiction of the Santipur thana in the Ranaghat sub-division of the Nuddea district. The authorities should take timely measures.

Outbreak of fever in villages within the jurisdiction of the Santipore thanा, in the Nuddea district.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Nov. 28th, 1890.

41. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 26th November, says that the Congress, which has for its object the liberation of India, is divided into two sections—

The Congress.

one social and the other political. Mr. Hume is the leader of the one, and Raghunath Rao of Madras of the other. Both of these leaders have assistants on all sides. All the Anglo-Indian politicians in India are opposed to the political section of the Congress, for the fulfilment of its vain aspiration will be prejudicial to their interests as it will be to those of the Indians themselves. But these politicians have full sympathy with every object of the social section of the Congress, because they have nothing to lose and much to gain, from a social revolution in India, and because to keep the Babus of the Congress busy in social reforms would be the best way of cooling the fervour of the political agitation. Both the sections are doing great injury to India in the present, and will do still greater injury to it in the future. But the mischief which is being done at present, and which will be done in future by the social section, is far more serious than that which is being done and which will be done by the political section. And what is most alarming is the gradual fusion of the two sections of the Congress.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPÍKA,
Oct. 18th, 1890.

42. The *Utkaldípíká*, of the 18th October, fully sympathises with the prayer made to Government by the Zemindars' Association of Eastern Bengal for reviving the system of remitting revenue by hundi or transfer receipts, and remarks that though the present system of remitting revenue through the post-office affords facilities of equal character to the zemindars, the money-order fee that they are required to pay becomes eight times the fee that they were required to pay under the hundi system. Since the zemindars are compelled by law to pay revenue before the sunset of a particular day, Government should afford them every facility in their power so far as remittance of money is concerned.

Payment of land revenue by postal money-orders.

UTKALDIPÍKA,
Nov. 8th, 1890.

43. The same paper, of the 8th November, is sorry to learn that the deck-passengers of the *Ganesh* steamer are put to indescribable inconvenience, amounting to cruel torture, through want of suitable urinals and latrines on board the steamer, and cites an instance where a deck-passenger was obliged to attend to a call of nature near Kendrapara lock on the 14th October last, where the steamer generally waits for a few minutes, and had to run on the bank, struggling in vain to go on board the plying steamer. When this occurred, the Agent of the Company to whom the steamer belongs, was on board the steamer, but he turned a deaf ear to the wailings of the running passenger.

Want of water-closets on board the *Ganesh* steamer.

UTKALDIPÍKA,
Oct. 18th, 1890.

44. The same paper, of the 18th October, strongly objects to the new rules which the Calcutta High Court have issued in connection with the execution of decrees in civil courts, and points out that they must materially affect the convenience and interests of decree-holders.

The High Court's new rules relating to the execution of Civil Court decrees.

ASSAM PAPERS.

45. The *Paridarshak*, of the 17th November, complains of the hard-

Some grievances of the people of Sylhet. ship caused to the people of Sylhet by the system of *begar*-supply in connection with the

Lushai expedition. The zemindars and the ryots of Karimgunge will know no rest until that expedition is over. The Sub-divisional Officer of Karimgunge did not even hesitate a few days ago to order the enlistment of the son of a zemindar as a head coolie. It is also said that large numbers of coolies and others who had to accompany the expedition have died, but Government is doing its best to suppress the report of their death. The writer cannot forbear noticing here the frequent complaints that are heard against Mr. Clarke, Sub-divisional Officer of Karimgunge, as a judicial officer. Mr. Clarke is quite a junior officer, and it would be well for him to be careful of his good name at the beginning of his career.

PARIDARSHAK,
Nov. 17th, 1890.

46. The *Silchar*, of the 17th November, says that the people of

The Lushai war and the oppression on the people of Cachar. Cachar are being subjected to gross oppression in consequence of the preparations for the

impending Lushai war. The system of *begar*-supply has been causing serious inconvenience to mirasdars, who find it absolutely beyond their power to supply the required number of coolies. Defaulting mirasdars are being arrested by peons, and people are deserting their villages panic-stricken. But as Government itself is interested in the matter, it is useless looking up to it for redress. Boats are being forcibly detained, and the police have been stationed at Silchar, Salchapra and Katigara to look out for them. As the local merchants have no other way of importing their goods from Dacca, Narayangunge, and other places than by means of boats, this detention of boats has been causing them serious loss. Stopping the issue of passes for boats is also tending to produce the same effect. Madhusudan Pal, a local merchant, applied for passes for eight boats, but his application has been refused. He has goods worth 16,000 or 17,000 rupees at Narayangunge, which are being damaged for want of means of transport. If this state of things continue any longer, prices of things will increase and nothing will be procurable in the bazars. The *majis* of the captured boats are compelled to take them to Dhansil. They are thus being made to incur grave risk. Who is responsible for their lives?

SILCHAR,
Nov. 17th, 1890.

47. The same paper also says that as the mirasdars are unable to

Taking of *begar* from tea-gardens. supply the required number of coolies, Government should take its *begar* supply from tea-gardens, and thereby save people from further oppression.

SILCHAR.

NÁRÁYAN CHANDRA BHATTÁCHÁRYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 29th November 1890.

